

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Respondent,
v.
RODNEY BUTLER,
Movant.

No. 2:04-cr-0019 MCE AC

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Movant, a federal prisoner proceeding pro se, has filed a motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. ECF No. 175. Movant has also filed a motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, styled as a “Counterclaim Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 13(a)(1)(A),” and a request to arrest judgment which are nearly identical to his motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence. ECF Nos. 151, 180.

The court’s records reveal that movant has previously filed a motion to vacate, set aside or correct his sentence. On December 18, 2012¹ (ECF No. 130), movant filed a motion² pursuant to § 2255 which was denied as untimely and on the merits (ECF No. 138). Both the District Judge

¹ Since plaintiff is proceeding pro se, he is afforded the benefit of the prison mailbox rule. See Houston v. Lack, 487 U.S. 266, 276 (1988).

² Prior to the December 18, 2012 motion, movant filed a “notice” that was recharacterized as a motion pursuant to § 2255. ECF No. 105. However, because movant was not provided with all three warnings required by Castro v. United States, 540 U.S. 375 (2003), the December 18, 2012 motion was not considered second or successive. ECF No. 138 at 6.

1 and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied movant a certificate of appealability. ECF Nos.
2 142, 149. The currently pending § 2255 motion (ECF No. 175), the motion to dismiss (ECF No.
3 151), and request to arrest judgment (ECF No. 180) only make arguments that the court has
4 already considered in denying movant's December 18, 2012 motion. See ECF No. 138.

5 Before movant can proceed with the instant § 2255 motion, he must move in the United
6 States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for an order authorizing the district court to consider
7 the application. "A second or successive motion must be certified as provided in section 2244 by
8 a panel of the appropriate court of appeals." 28 U.S.C. § 2255; see also 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3).
9 Therefore, this petition should be dismissed without prejudice to its refiling upon obtaining
10 authorization from the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

11 Because they are nearly identical to the current § 2255 motion and challenge movant's
12 detention, the motion to dismiss and request to arrest judgment are properly construed as § 2255
13 motions. Harrison v. Ollison, 519 F.3d 952, 955 (9th Cir. 2008) ("As a general rule, '§ 2255
14 provides the exclusive procedural mechanism by which a federal prisoner may test the legality of
15 detention.'") (quoting Lorentsen v. Hood, 223 F.3d 950, 953 (9th Cir. 2000)). However, were the
16 court to construe the motion to dismiss and request to arrest judgment as § 2255 motions, they
17 also would have to be denied as second or successive. Even if the court does not construe the
18 motion to dismiss and request to arrest judgment as § 2255 motions, they should still be denied
19 for the reasons set forth in the July 25, 2013 order denying movant's previous § 2255 motion
20 (ECF No. 138).

21 Movant's request to arrest judgment should be further denied as untimely. "The
22 defendant must move to arrest judgment within 14 days after the court accepts a verdict or finding
23 of guilty, or after a plea of guilty or nolo contendere." Fed. R. Crim. P. 34(b). Movant entered a
24 plea of guilty on October 24, 2006 (ECF Nos. 83, 85), and has not demonstrated that his failure to
25 timely file is due to excusable neglect, Fed. R. Crim. P. 45(b)(1)(B).

26 For these reasons, the motion to dismiss and request to arrest judgment should be denied.
27 Furthermore, since the request to arrest judgment should be denied because it is untimely or
28 would be second or successive if construed as a § 2255 motion, movant's motion to amend the

1 request should also be denied because any amendment would be futile.

2 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that:

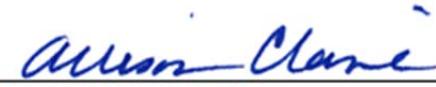
3 1. Movant's June 18, 2015 motion to vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence pursuant to
4 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (ECF No. 175) be denied; and

5 2. Movant's motion to dismiss (ECF No. 151) be denied.

6 3. Movant's request to arrest judgment (ECF No. 180) and motion to amend the request
7 (ECF No. 186) be denied.

8 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
9 assigned to this case pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days
10 after being served with these findings and recommendations, movant may file written objections
11 with the court. The document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings
12 and Recommendations." Movant is advised that failure to file objections within the specified
13 time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153
14 (9th Cir. 1991).

15 DATED: January 14, 2016

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17 ALLISON CLAIRE
18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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